Christian group targets Fort Collins law

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Associated Press

FORT COLLINS — The Colorado chapter of the Christian Coalition plans to battle the gay rights ordinance adopted in Fort Collins, the group's director said.

"We are going to rally our people," said Chuck Gosnell, director of the Christian Coalition of Colorado. "We are going to encourage our people to be involved. They cannot be absent or stand on the sidelines with this ordinance."

The ordinance extends legal protections to gay men and lesbians, and supporters said they were dismayed that the state group would get involved.

"I want to see the people of Fort Collins decide this, not the Christian Coalition. This is a local issue," said Terry Summers of the Lambda Community Center, which advocates for the gay community.

On March 3, the Fort Collins City Council adopted two ordinances. The first brings the code into line with state and federal laws. The second prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

Earlier last week, Fort Collins businessman Greg Snyder initiated a petition drive to bring both ordinances to a vote of the people, in hopes that they will be repealed. A referendum could be scheduled as early as this summer if enough signatures are gathered.

Gosnell said the Christian Coalition will encourage people to overturn the ordinance. He said the Fort Collins ordinance is "bizarre and irrational legal theory."

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This is not merely a case of you can't please all the people all of the time. This is in a different category entirely. The school board and administration clearly need to rethink some of their assumptions. Because right now, the real questions are about the accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the board and administration, not the schools themselves.

— Glenn Paauw
Colorado Springs

SCHOOL DISTRICT 20 administrators say they are for the child, but the budget does not reflect that.

This current proposal should upset all taxpayers in the district. They want to spend $1.1 million on magnet programs instead of neighborhood schools where

Smith's premise seems to be. Under the law, except for libel laws, free speech is our cherished right.

But in society the essence of proper guidance of impressionable youth is to help them make choices that will serve them well in maturity. Call it what you will: self-discipline, conduct, concern for the sensitivities of others. Decorum is one of those wise choices.

— Marjorie Bruce
Colorado Springs

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